

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7691

Investigation into Washington Electric                     )  
Cooperative, Inc.'s tariff filing requesting an             )  
overall rate increase in the amount of 23.81%, to        )  
take effect January 1, 2011                                     )

Order entered: 1/5/2011

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM AND SCHEDULING ORDER**

On November 15, 2010, Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("WEC") filed revisions to its tariffs reflecting a 23.81% increase in its rates, to take effect on a service-rendered basis commencing January 1, 2011 (Tariff filing #8200). On December 16, 2010, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department") filed a letter informing the Public Service Board ("Board") that it had reviewed the filing and recommended that the Board investigate the proposed rate increase. On December 23, 2010, the Board opened this proceeding to investigate WEC's rate increase.

On January 4, 2011, I held a prehearing conference in this Docket. Appearances were entered by Joshua Diamond, Esq., Diamond & Robinson, P.C., on behalf of WEC, and Geoffrey Commons, Esq., on behalf of the Department.

Parties at the prehearing conference agreed to the following schedule, which I adopt:

January 18, 2011	Deadline for filing motions to intervene
January 25, 2011	Deadline for responses to motions to intervene
February 15, 2011	WEC to file prefiled testimony supporting its request for a rate increase
February 22, 2011	Department serves first round of discovery upon WEC
March 15, 2011	WEC responds to Department's discovery requests
March 15, 2011	Public hearing

March 24, 2011	Department serves second round of discovery upon WEC
April 7, 2011	WEC responds to Department's second round of discovery requests
April 21, 2011	Department files prefiled testimony
May 2, 2011	WEC serves first round of discovery upon Department
May 18, 2011	Department responds to WEC's discovery requests
May 25, 2011	WEC serves second round of discovery upon Department
June 8, 2011	Department responds to WEC's second round of discovery requests
June 17, 2011	WEC files prefiled rebuttal testimony
June 24, 2011	Department serves discovery upon WEC
July 6, 2011	WEC responds to Department discovery requests
July 15, 2011	Department files prefiled surrebuttal testimony, if needed
July 25 and 26, 2011	Technical hearings
August 17, 2011	Parties file briefs <sup>1</sup>
August 26, 2011	Parties file reply briefs
September 9, 2011	Target date for proposal for decision

In addition, WEC indicated that it will file a letter waiving, until October 14, 2011, the seven-month deadline for a final order pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 227. WEC should file this letter by January 14, 2011.

**SO ORDERED.**

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1. The parties agreed to file their briefs on August 16, 2011. However, that date is Bennington Battle Day, a state holiday. Therefore, briefs shall be due the next business day, August 17.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011.

s/ Edward McNamara  
Edward McNamara, Esq.  
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: January 5, 2011

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson  
Clerk of the Board

*NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)*